



Gravity Probe launch delayed after pre-launch testing showed problem

▲ **ELV Update:** The launch of Gravity Probe B (GP-B) from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. is being re-scheduled after a review of test data. The launch had been scheduled for Dec. 6. Prelaunch testing data shows electronic noise on an output channel associated with the No. 1 experiment gyro that could compromise the quality of data received from it. The problem has been isolated to a component in the spacecraft's experiment control unit (ECU). While there is a second available output channel for this gyro, a postponement of the launch will allow time to fix the problem. This precaution will assure full reliability of the experiment and assure success over the planned 16-month life of the mission. A new launch date has not been determined.

▲ Ribbon-cutting for new Space Life Sciences

Lab: NASA-KSC and the state of Florida are hosting a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Space Life Sciences Lab (formerly known as the Space Experiment Research and Processing Laboratory – SERPL) and Space Commerce Way, Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. The more-than 100,000-square-foot facility, completed in August of this year, represents a partnership between NASA and the state of Florida. The state, through Florida Space Authority, built the research lab. The new facility is host to NASA, NASA's Life Sciences Services contractor Dynamac Corporation, Bionetics Corporation, and researchers from the University of Florida. Dynamac Corporation leases the facility. The Florida Space Research Institute is responsible for gaining additional tenants from outside the NASA community.

◆ **Data gathering at KSC for Return-to-Flight:** Fatigue Rollout Test operations are taking place this week on the crawler-transporter and Mobile Launcher Platform. The crawler will move the MLP, carrying a set of twin

New science lab being dedicated in ribbon-cutting

solid rocket boosters, slowly out of the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) in support of engineering analysis vibration tests on the crawler and MLP. The primary purpose of these rollout tests is to gather data to develop future maintenance requirements on the transport equipment and the flight hardware. Additional rollout tests will be performed in the following months without the booster set for the purposes of gathering data in various hardware configurations. **Also, for security purposes, vehicles are prohibited from driving on the rock portion of the crawler track until Friday Nov. 21.**

◆ **Shuttle Return-To-Flight briefing** – Today at 2 p.m., NASA Space Shuttle Program officials will hold a briefing at NASA's Johnson Space Center, Houston, about return-to-flight issues. The briefing will be broadcast live on NASA TV and will focus on Return-to-Flight Shuttle processing, testing, training and response to recommendations of the Columbia Accident Investigation Board. Participants include Space Shuttle Program Manager Bill Parsons, Deputy Space Shuttle Program Manager N. Wayne Hale and NASA Return-to-Flight Planning Team Lead Col. James Halsell.

◆ **Did You Know? EEAW selects slogan winner** – The Environmental & Energy Awareness Team received 45 creative slogan nominations for the April 2004 EEAW event and 286 votes. Congratulations to Tracey Eddings of InDyne, Inc. for the winning slogan, "Today's Conservation Defines Tomorrow's Future." Tracey will be presented her award during the Opening Ceremonies on April 20 at 10 a.m. in the KSC Training Auditorium during the KSC Environmental & Energy Awareness Week activities. Thanks to everyone for your participation in this year's slogan contest. Mark your calendars for April 20-22, 2004, to celebrate Earth Day!